by an Ordinance, issued and notified in the Gazette of India vide Notification No. 20 dated 22.5.2001.

(b) The Reserve Bank of India has authorised enhanced Cash Credit Limit of Rs. 24,000 Crore for May, 2001, Rs. 26,500 Crore for June, Rs. 28,000 Crore for the month of July, 2001 and Rs. 28,500 Crore for the month of August, 2001 for Food procurement operations.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) There are no financial constraints on the part of Food Corporation of India.

(e) The quesfion does not arise.

Rising prices of foodgrains for PDS

1966. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of foodgrains for PDS were raised exorbitantly during the budget 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such increase was intended to reduce the level of food subsidy;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the actual level of subsidy incurred during 2000-2001 due to reduced off take, transportation and storage; and

(e) whether it is a fact that the massive resultant buffer stock had to be sought to be disposed by Government through auction to traders at prices less then that of the BPL price and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) With a view to neutralise the increase consequent upon the hike in Minimum Support Price of wheat and rice and to contain the food subsidy budget to a manageable level, the Government had decided with effect from 1.4.2000 to fix the Central Issue Prices (CIPs) at of 50%

of the economic cost of foodgrains for BPL families and 100% of the economic cost of foodgrains for APL families, as follows:—

(Rs. per quintal)

Commodity	BPL	APL
Wheat	450	900
Rice	590	1180

On the recommendation of the Expenditure Reforms Commission, the CIPs of wheat and rice were reduced with effect from 25.7.2000, as follows:—

(Rs. per quintal)

Commodity	BPL	APL
Wheat	415	830
Rice	565	1130

In order to increase the offtake of foodgrains, Government has further reduced the CIPs of APL families to 70% of the economic cost. Accordingly, the CIP of wheat has been reduced from Rs. 830/- to Rs. 610/- per quintal and for rice from Rs. 1130/- per quintal to Rs. 830/- per quintal for APL families with effect from 12.7.2000. However, the CIPs of wheat and rice for BPL families have been retained at the same level fixed in July, 2000, which are about 48% of the present economic cost of wheat and rice.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The total food subsidy released during 2000-2001 to Food Corporation of India was Rs. 11462 crores, to the Government of West Bengal Rs. 97.16 crores, to the Government of M.P. Rs. 85 crores and to the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh Rs. 398 crores. The subsidy released to the State Governments was under decentralised procurement scheme.

(e) No, Sir. Good quality wheat/rice was not disposed off at below BPL prices. However, the following quantity of damaged category

rice not issuable under PDS have been liquidated by the Food Corporation of India through tender sale at prices below B.P.L.:

(Fig. in lakh tonnes)

Year	Quantity
1994-95	0.78
1995-96	1.26
1996-97	4.51
1997-98	0.10
1998-99	1.66
1999-2000	2.19

During 2000-2001 the stock of 'D' category rice have been liquidated on the following prices:—

1. At the rate of Rs. 425/- per quintal in the Region of J&K, Bihar, Delhi, West Bengal, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Assam & NEF;

2. At the rate of Rs. 525/- per quintal in the Region of Tamilnadu, Kerala; and

3. At the rate of Rs. 531/- per quintal in the Region of Rajasthan.

Super Bazar in various States

1967. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up fair price shops/Super Bazars/Kendriya Bhandars in various States;

(b) if so, the step taken in this regard during the last three years;

(c) whether Government have a proposal to provide essential commodities to the people Below Poverty Line in the far flung areas; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?